

Maricopa County News Release

Office of Communications

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Maricopa County and Gilbert Renew Library Partnership

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Gilbert Town Council agreed to renew a ten-year partnership to continue operating the Southeast Regional Library through 2011. East Valley Supervisors Fulton Brock, District 1 and Don Stapley, District 2, whose districts encompass Gilbert, worked with Gilbert Mayor Steve Berman and the town council to fashion the partnership.

Under the original agreement, established in 1996, Gilbert paid \$9.5 million for construction and \$250,000 a year in maintenance. The Maricopa County Library District paid \$2 million annually in operating costs. That original agreement expires in June 2006. According to the new agreement, the county district and the town will share the operating costs, with Gilbert paying 100 percent of the cost after the agreement expires in 2011.

The Southeast Library, located at the southeast corner of Guadalupe and Greenfield Roads, is the busiest of the thirteen libraries in the Maricopa County District system. It has an annual circulation of 1.4 million books and provides desirable meeting space for for the community.